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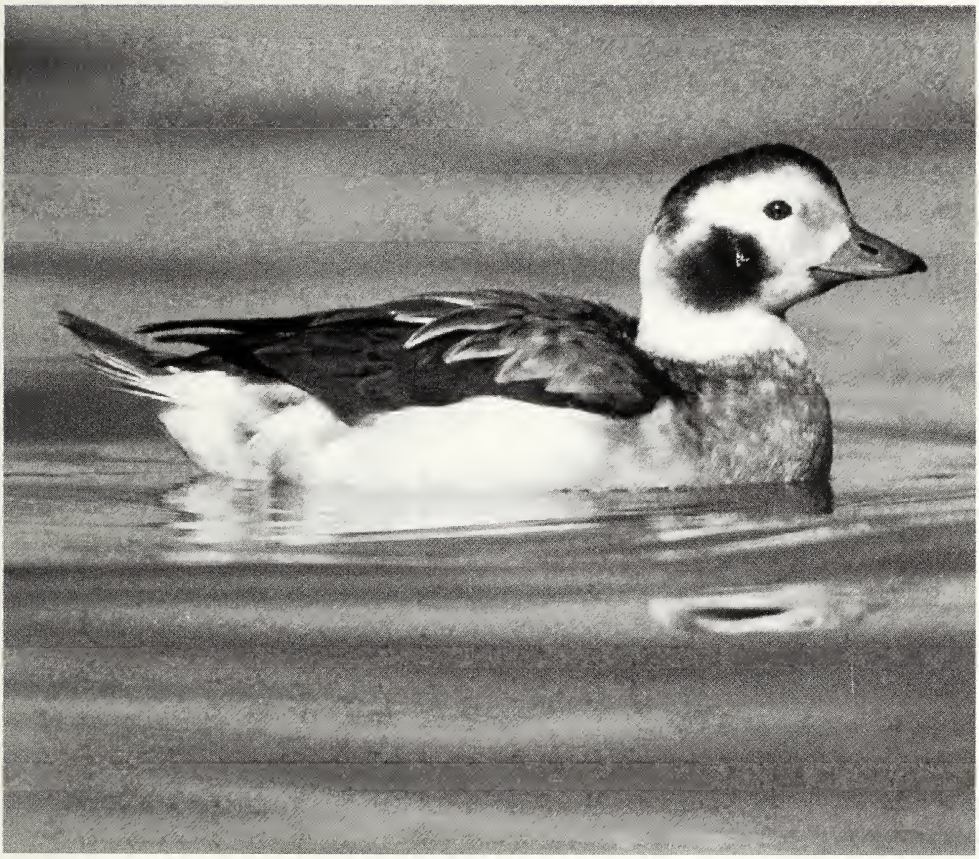
The Chat

Vol. 77 SPRING 2013 No. 2



The Quarterly Bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
The Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

THE CHAT

ISSN No. 0009-1987

Vol. 77 SPRING 2013 No. 2

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THE CHAT is published quarterly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612. Subscription price $30 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Pinehurst, NC and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE CHAT, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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General Field Notes

First Record of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) for Western North Carolina *David Wright and Chris Talkington* 41

Briefs for the Files

Winter 2012–2013 *Josh Southern* 43

Cover: Long-tailed Duck, 03 November 2012, Lake Norman, Mecklenburg County, NC. Photo by Phil Fowler.

First Record of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) for Western North Carolina

David Wright[1] and Chris Talkington[2]

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On 18 December 2011, the authors observed a first-winter Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) among several thousand Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and Bonaparte's Gulls (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) occupying the late afternoon Mecklenburg County gull roost in the Davidson Creek channel of Lake Norman, NC. At times, the gull was seen as close as 50 feet from Wright's pontoon boat. It was viewed from approximately 4:30 to 5:30 PM using 10 X 42 and 8 X 42 binoculars. Both authors have prior experience with first-winter Thayer's Gull: Talkington from years on Lake Erie and Wright from multiple winter birding trips to the West Coast.

The gull was loosely associating with young Herring Gulls, although it tended to drift away from other gulls after the flock would regularly flush and resettle. The bird allowed the authors to approach more closely than any of the other gulls. Talkington obtained good, identifiable photographs, one of which was published (Southern 2012). As the authors scanned the flock, they were immediately struck by the much paler overall color of the Thayer's Gull in direct comparison to the adjacent first-year Herring Gulls. The Thayer's was approximately the same size as some of the smaller Herring Gulls present (slightly smaller than most of the Herrings), but slimmer and without the robust chest of a Herring.

The tail of the Thayer's Gull appeared marginally longer, giving the bird a more attenuated look. Its overall coloration was a warm, fairly uniform, pale brown. The primaries were a much darker brown (not black). The feather pattern on the dorsal side of the Thayer's was fine, uniform at a distance and pale brown, contrasting with the young Herring Gulls. On closer inspection, the pale brown feathers were fringed in an even paler creamy brown. The uniform pattern extended down the tail and there was a dark brown (not black) tail band. In flight, a dark brown bar was visible on the secondaries.

The bill was short, straight (no bulging gonys), and entirely black. In direct comparison with first-year Herrings, the Thayer's head was rounded with a steep forehead, giving it a "gentle" face, as opposed to the flat-crowned, long and sloping forehead of the "fierce" aspect to a Herring Gull.

There are numerous records for this species from the North Carolina coastal area, but this sighting represents the first known occurrence of Thayer's Gull in Mecklenburg County and the farthest inland sighting in the Carolinas. The Birds of North Carolina: their Distribution and Abundance website (www.carolinabirdclub.org/ncbirds/accounts.php) lists no records

from the mountain province, and just three previous state records from the Piedmont, all from landfills in Wake County. These are one first-winter bird on 4-6 Feb 1994 (Davis 1995) and one of unspecified age on 16 Dec 1995 (Davis 1996) at a landfill in eastern Raleigh, and an adult at a different landfill site in north Raleigh on 11 Feb 2006 (Davis 2006).

References

Davis, Ricky. 1995. Briefs for the files. Chat 59:34.
Davis, Ricky. 1996. Briefs for the files. Chat 60:162.
Davis, Ricky. 2006. Briefs for the files. Chat 70:51.
Southern, Josh. 2012. Briefs for the files. Chat 76:58.

Received 11 April 2013, accepted 19 June 2013

Thayer's Gull, 18 December 2011, Lake Norman, Mecklenburg County, NC. Photo by Chris Talkington. Note: A different photo of this bird taken by Chris Talkington was published in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Chat* (Chat 76:58).

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2012–2013, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	*December 1–February 28*	*due March 20*
Spring	*March 1–May 31*	*due June 20*
Summer	*June 1–July 31*	*due August 20*
Fall	*August 1–November 30*	*due December 20*

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sightings included one continuing at Charleston Southern University and at nearby Wannamaker County Park, Charleston County (Co), SC, throughout the period (Matthew Johnson); in Beaufort Co, SC, during the Lowcountry Christmas Bird Count (CBC), 15 Dec (Buddy Campbell, et al.); two on the Ace Basin (SC) CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain, Ann Shahid); two on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 5 Jan (Ed Corey, et al.); six in a flooded field along US-264 in Hyde Co, NC, 5 Jan (Dick Barmore, Elizabeth White); and one

photographed on Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 15 Feb (Virginia Senechal).

Snow Goose: Sightings made outside of the NC coastal plain included two at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Jasper Co, SC, 4 Dec (Cherrie Sneed, Aija Konrad); two on the Durham (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Michael Schultz); a juvenile in a field in Florence Co, SC, 17 Dec (Shawn Smolen-Morton); six on the Santee NWR (SC) CBC, 22 Dec (*fide* Dennis Forsythe); a blue-phase bird at the water treatment plant (WTP) along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 30 Dec through 16 Jan (Wayne Forsythe); and one photographed in a field in Columbia, SC, 7-10 Feb (Alex Davis, m. obs.).

Ross's Goose: Well-reported this winter, birds numbered 11 in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde and Washington Co, NC, 24 Jan (Derb Carter); three on the Mattamuskeet NWR (NC) CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell); and two on the Brevard (NC) CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Mike Judd). Individuals were seen in Forsyth Co, NC, 13-16 Dec (Hop Hopkins); in southern Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, SC, 18 Dec (Richard & Dorothy Rosche) through 24 Dec (Scott Spangenberg); in Spartanburg Co, SC, during the CBC, 2 Jan (*fide* Lyle Campbell) and at Milliken Pond, where photographed, 22 Jan (Jeff Lemons) through 24 Feb (Dan Garber); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 21 Jan (Thierry Besançon) and 23 Jan (Jeff Lewis); in Gamewell, Caldwell Co, NC, in late January (Walt Kent, Dwayne Martin); and in the Village Green subdivision, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Feb (Clint Ball) into March (Chris Snook).

Ross's Goose, 14 February 2013, Charleston County, SC. Photo by Cherrie Sneed.

Cackling Goose: Individuals were photographed with Canada Geese at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 16-19 Jan (Wayne Forsythe, Todd Arcos) and on Grogan Lake in Mayodan, Rockingham Co, NC, 25 Jan (Martin Wall). Four were found in the large goose flocks in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde and Washington Co, NC, 24 Jan (Derb Carter).

Cackling Goose, 25 January 2013, Rockingham County, NC. Photo by Martin Wall.

Tundra Swan: Providing a record count for the mountain region were 12 in flight over Valle Crucis, Watauga Co, NC, during the Grandfather Mountain CBC, 22 Dec (Richard Gray). Reports from the NC Piedmont were three on the Chapel Hill CBC, 23 Dec (*fide* Will Cook); and one on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, during the week of the Winston-Salem CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Ron Morris).

Eurasian Wigeon: Individual drakes were found at multiple sites in Dare County, NC, though only once at each site—on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, 2 Dec (Jeff Lewis); on Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, 11 Dec (Lewis); at Alligator River NWR, 7 Jan (Lewis); and on Stumpy Point Bay, 4 Feb (Jay Ross). Elsewhere, drakes were seen at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, during the week of the CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell) and again 19 Jan (Thierry Besançon, et al.); and at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 24 Feb (Kevin DeBoer, Keith McCullough) into the spring.

"Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal": This teal hybrid was seen at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, in late December (Susan Campbell) into the spring (m. obs.).

Cinnamon Teal: A drake found at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 27 Jan (J.B. Hines) was seen and photographed by multiple birders until last seen 17 Feb (Alexandra Schaefer). A possible Cinnamon Teal, either an immature male or a molting adult male, was seen and photographed on Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, Dare Co, NC, 1-2 Dec (Jeff Lewis). Until this winter, it had been six years since our region's last Cinnamon Teal report.

Cinnamon Teal, 10 February 2013, Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Phil Fowler.

Redhead: ~7000 on the Core Sound, near Marshallberg, Carteret Co, NC, during the winter (*fide* John Fussell) and ~2000 on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 23 Jan (Jeff Lewis) were notable concentrations. Decent counts from inland sites included 35 in Spartanburg Co, SC, during the CBC, 2 Jan (*fide* Lyle Campbell); 70 at Dobbins Cattle Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 19 Jan (Lex Glover, Matt Johnson); 25 on a pond at Sandhills Turf Farm in Moore Co, NC, 25-29 Jan (George Thompson); 30 on Lake Eden in Black Mountain, Buncombe Co, NC, 7 Feb (Stu Gibeau); and 29 on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 24 Feb (Mike Turner).

Common Eider: Two, a female and a first-winter male, photographed together at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 4 Dec (Jerry Kerschner) was the only report of multiple birds together. Individuals were noted in the canals around Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, a first-winter male, 7-13 Dec (Charles Lynch, John Fussell); in "The Straits" off Gloucester, Carteret Co, NC, a female photographed 17 Dec (Barbara Pigott, Genny Pigott); in the

Pamlico Sound off of Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 1 Dec (Andrew Thornton), 27-29 Dec (Jeff Beane), and during the CBC, 31 Dec (*fide* Peter Vankevich); on the Pamlico Sound near White Plains, Hyde Co, NC, a female, during the Mattamuskeet NWR CBC, 29 Dec (John Fussell, Matt Gould, et al.); at Murrells Inlet during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill); off of a pier in Ocean Isle Beach, NC, a first-winter male, 1 Jan (Taylor Piephoff) through 20 Jan (Ron Clark); and at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, a female photographed during the Camp Lejeune CBC, 3 Jan (Jim O'Donnell, Andy Webb).

Harlequin Duck: A first-winter male found at the end of the rock jetty at Fort (Ft) Macon in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 21 Feb (Al Gamache) remained in that area into spring (John Fussell, m. obs.).

Surf Scoter: Inland sightings included a female on Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 14-16 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); three on the Southern Lake Norman (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff); and a first-winter male photographed on a golf course pond in Rockingham Co, NC, 25 Feb into spring (Martin Wall).

White-winged Scoter: A first-winter male on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 20 Feb (Thierry Besançon) into spring (Mike Turner, m. obs.) was good for that inland site.

Black Scoter: Inland, individuals were found on Kerr Lake, Vance Co, NC, 6 Dec (Ali Iyoob) and on Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, a female, 7 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger).

Long-tailed Duck: The individual on Carolina Beach Lake, New Hanover Co, NC, first seen in November, remained until the city drained the lake, 5 Jan (David Howell). Two, a male and a female, were seen on the lower end of Falls Lake, Wake Co, 30 Dec (Mike Turner). A female seen near the dam on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 19 Jan (Guy McCrane) through 21 Jan (Issac Kerns) was a good find for a site so far inland. A male near the causeway in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 23 Jan (Jeff Lewis) through 27 Jan (m. obs.) was locally unusual.

Common Goldeneye: Six near Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Melinda Jones) and again 12 Jan (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski) was a good count. Two were seen on Charleston Harbor, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Dec (Mike Bernard). Individuals were noted at the WTP in Conway, Horry Co, SC, a female, 18 Jan (Gary Phillips, et al.) and 25 Jan (Richard & Dorothy Rosche); on a retention pond near the Charlotte Motor Speedway, Cabarrus Co, NC, a female, 20 Jan (Jeff Lemons) through 17 Feb (Phil Fowler); on Greenfield Lake, New Hanover Co, NC, a female, 3-5 Feb (Daniel Hueholt); and on a

pond in the Village Green subdivision, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Feb (Dennis Forsythe).

Common Merganser: 570 on the north end of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 26 Jan (Derb Carter, et al.) was the high count at that site. A first-winter bird photographed on Deep Springs Country Club Lake in Rockingham Co, NC, 28 Dec (Martin Wall) was a first for that county. Four on Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 6 Feb (Will Siler) were a good find for the mountain region.

Common Merganser, 28 December 2012, Rockingham County, NC. Photo by Martin Wall.

Red-breasted Merganser: A few of the more impressive inland sightings were 60 on Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 5 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); 75 on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 12 Dec (Mike Turner); five females on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 25 Dec (Ron Morris); and two on the Keowee (SC) CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Stephen Schutt).

Red-throated Loon: Impressive coastal counts included 5000 off of the Bogue Banks, Carteret Co, NC, during the morning of 13 Dec (John Fussell) and 1750 off of the spit at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, during the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (David Howell, Greg Massey, Harry Sell). One on Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 5 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger) was the only inland sighting mentioned.

Pacific Loon: Multiple sightings were made in New Hanover Co, NC—one off of Figure Eight Island, 3, 16 & 17 Dec (Derb Carter); two off of Johnnie Mercer's Pier, Wrightsville Beach, during the Wilmington CBC, 6 Jan (Carter, Ron Clark, Harry Sell); and one photographed at Masonboro Inlet, 27 Feb (Leesa Goodson). The only sighting made in a different county was one at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 2 Jan (Jeff Beane).

Pacific Loon, 27 February 2013, Masonboro Inlet, NC. Photo by Leesa Goodson.

Red-necked Grebe: Sightings included one flying north off of Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, NC, 6 Dec (John Fussell); four at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC, 26 Dec (Peter Stangel); at least two at the same location, 4 Jan (Paul Serridge); one on Falls Lake, NC, in early January (*fide* Brian Bockhahn); six on the Charleston (SC) CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Paul Nolan); one on the SC side of the J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir, McCormick Co, SC, 29 Jan (James Fleullan, Trey McCuen); one at Murrells Inlet, 6 Feb (Amy Eakins, Geoff Winningham); and one at multiple sites in New Hanover Co, NC—in flight off Wrightsville Beach, 24 Feb (Sam Cooper); off Figure Eight Island, 24 Feb (Derb Carter); and at Masonboro Inlet, 25 Feb (Greg Massey).

Eared Grebe: Individuals were seen near Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Dec (Greg Massey); on the Hatteras (NC) CBC, 27 Dec (*fide* Pat Moore); in Wanchese Harbor, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Edmund LeGrand) through 6 Jan (Dick Barmore, Elizabeth White); on the Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands (NC) CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Melinda Jones); off of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 5 Jan (*fide* Sam Cooper) and 26 Jan (Robert Meehan, Ron Clark); amongst Horned Grebes at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 19 Jan (Ron Clark, et al.) through 25 Feb (Chet Morse); and off of Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 26 Jan (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand).

Black-capped Petrel: One on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good find for the winter period.

Sooty Shearwater: These birds are most likely seen from shore in late May, thus one seen over the ocean from Ft Macon, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jan (John Fussell) was remarkable.

Manx Shearwater: Three were spotted over the ocean in Dare Co, NC, during the Bodie-Pea Island CBC, 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes). One was seen off of Cape Point, Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 23 Feb (Ed Corey, Elisa Enders). 22, a good count, were observed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Wood Stork: Two immature birds at Huntington Beach State Park (SP), Georgetown Co, SC, 30 Dec (Tom Snow) and in nearby Garden City, Horry Co, SC, 1 Jan (Richard & Dorothy Rosche) were unusual for that northern part of the SC coast during mid-winter. One farther north, in flight over Airlie Gardens in New Hanover Co, NC, 20 Feb (Gretchen Schramm, Kathleen McLeod) was even more unusual.

Northern Gannet: Several miles inland from the ocean was an individual over the North River, N of the US-70 bridge, Carteret Co, NC, 3 Feb (Dennis Chadwick).

Great Cormorant: Sightings included a first-year bird at Ft Macon, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Dec (Gilbert Grant, Nikki Reiber) into spring (John Fussell, m. obs.); one at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 14 Dec (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); one at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 30 Dec (Keith McCullough); two on the Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands (NC) CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Melinda Jones); seven at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Jan (Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski) through 24 Feb (Sam Cooper); two at Oregon Inlet, 27 Jan (Lewis); and a first-year bird on the rocks off Fort Moultrie, Charleston Co, SC, 13 Feb (Hal Currey).

Anhinga: Farther north than is typical in winter was one on Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 9 Dec (Jeff Lewis); eight in Pamlico Co, NC, during the CBC, 18 Dec (*fide* Liz Lathrop); two at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, during the CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell); and one at Holts Lake, Johnston Co, NC, 30 Dec (Phil Doerr, Clyde Sorenson).

American White Pelican: Some of the better counts were 34 in the Lake Landing area of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 1 Dec (Ricky Davis); 79 over Magnolia Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Dec (Ann Truesdale); 160 on the Hilton Head Island (SC) CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd); 105 on the Winyah Bay (SC) CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover); 32 over the Hobucken Marshes in Pamlico Co, NC, during the CBC, 18 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle

Kittelberger); 16 over Gloucester, Carteret Co, NC, 22 Dec (Barbara Pigott, Genny Pigott); 97 in Dare Co, NC, during the Bodie-Pea Island CBC, 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes); 185 in Colleton Co, SC, during the Ace Basin CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain); and 15 near Aurora, Beaufort Co, NC, 10 Jan (Susan Campbell).

Least Bittern: One photographed at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 27 Jan (Greg Hudson) was very unusual for mid-winter.

"Great White Heron": One at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 25 Jan (Terri Kirby-Hathaway, JoAnne Powell) was a good find, though not relocated.

Reddish Egret: One found in Georgetown Co, SC, during the Winyah Bay CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover) was a good find for the winter period.

Green Heron: CBCs along the North Carolina coast reported two in Kitty Hawk, 15 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis); two on Holly Shelter & Lea-Hutaff Island, 16 Dec (*fide* Andy Wood); one in Morehead City, 16 Dec (*fide* John Fussell); one in Pamlico County, 18 Dec (*fide* Liz Lathrop); and one on Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands, 4 Jan (*fide* Melinda Jones). The high count on CBCs in South Carolina was eight on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 14 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A juvenile photographed in Mecklenburg County, NC on the Southern Lake Norman (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) was a first for that count.

White-faced Ibis: One was photographed at the east end of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 25 Feb (Scott Winton), providing NC with its third definitive record.

Roseate Spoonbill: This winter's sightings, all from South Carolina, were two on the Winyah Bay CBC, 14 Dec (Buddy Campbell); one during the week of the Ace Basin CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Ann Shahid); one on the Sea Islands CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given); and one on Dewees Island, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Feb (Judy Fairchild).

Northern Goshawk: An adult was seen along Sawyer Lake Road (Rd) at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 2 Dec (Jay Ross). An immature bird was seen at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, during the Morehead City CBC, 16 Dec (Wade Fuller, Matt Gould).

Golden Eagle: Sightings included a subadult photographed in the Gull Rock Game Land, Hyde Co, NC, during the Mattamuskeet NWR CBC, 29 Dec (Scott Winton); one in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of

Hyde and Washington Co, NC, during the Carolina Bird Club meeting in late January (Derb Carter, et al.); an adult soaring over Hunting Creek and Spring Creek Impoundments in the Goose Creek Game Land, Beaufort Co, NC, 31 Jan (Susan Campbell); and one in Marion, McDowell Co, NC, 28 Feb (Byron Levan).

Yellow Rail: Individuals were flushed at two sites in Carteret Co, NC—in the North River Marsh, during the Morehead City CBC, 15 Dec (Jacob Socolar) and in the Crow Hill Impoundment, 16 Dec (David Burney, Dennis Chadwick).

Black Rail: One seen in the Gull Rock Game Land, Hyde Co, NC, during the Mattamuskeet NWR CBC, 29 Dec (Scott Winton) was a good find.

Sora: One flushed from a lakeside marsh at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 12 Dec (Mike Turner) was unusual for a site in the Piedmont during the winter.

Common Gallinule: One photographed on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, during the Winston-Salem CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Ron Morris) was a good find.

Sandhill Crane: Large flocks were found at two sites in South Carolina's central coastal plain this winter—in a field near Harleyville, Dorchester Co, where 79 were counted during the Four Holes Swamp CBC, 17 Dec (*fide* Mark Musselman) and 19 remained 2 Feb (Pam Ford, Myrtle Neel, Perry Nugent); and in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, where 30 were seen during the CBC, 22 Dec (Roger Smith) and 35 were counted 2 Feb (Chris Clack, Brad Dalton, Matt Johnson). In North Carolina, seen as they passed overhead were nine over Falls Lake, Wake Co, 4 Jan (Brian Bockhahn) and three over NC-191 in Henderson Co, 7 Jan (Wayne Forsythe). The only cranes relocated at a site in NC were two or three around Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, through most of the winter. After first being sighted in flight over the North River, 14 Dec (Dennis Chadwick), the cranes were frequently seen around the airport in Beaufort and apparently roosted at the nearby Rachel Carson Reserve (John Fussell, m. obs.).

Northern Lapwing: One found amongst a flock of Killdeer in a field in Person Co, NC, 24 Feb (Martin Wall) attracted birders from across the region until last seen in early March. This sighting provided the third record of this species in the state.

Northern Lapwing, 24 February 2013, Person County, NC. Photo by Martin Wall.

Snowy Plover: One was photographed at the east end of Bear Island, Hammocks Beach SP, Onslow Co, NC, 18 Feb (Ed Corey). Interestingly, this site has hosted a Snowy Plover (same individual?) multiple times during the past six years.

Snowy Plover, 18 February 2013, Hammocks Beach State Park, NC. Photo by Ed Corey.

Wilson's Plover: Individuals were found on Bald Head Island, Brunswick Co, NC, during the CBC, 4 Jan (Ed Corey); in Charleston Co, SC, during the Sea Islands CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given) and again 24 Feb (Cherrie Sneed); and on North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 9 Jan (Gilbert Grant). Three on the east end of Bear Island, Hammocks Beach SP, Onslow Co, NC, 18 Feb (Ed Corey) was a good number for the winter.

Spotted Sandpiper: North Carolina CBCs found lingering individuals in Charlotte, 22 Dec (*fide* Ken Kneidel); on Ocracoke Island, 31 Dec (Jeff Beane); and in Wilmington, 5 Jan (Sam Cooper). Four seen in Brunswick Co, NC, during the Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands CBC, the state's southernmost count, 4 Jan (*fide* Melinda Jones) was a good number for NC in winter. CBCs along South Carolina's coast reported better numbers with 50 on Hilton Head Island, 14 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd); nine on Sun City-Okatie, 14 Dec (*fide* Jane Deakin); five on Lowcountry, 15 Dec (*fide* Ken Scott); two on Lower Saluda, 21 Dec (*fide* Kent Bedenbaugh); one on Litchfield-Pawleys Island, 26 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill); two on Sea Islands, 4 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given); and two in Charleston, 5 Jan (*fide* Jennifer Tyrrell).

Willet: A concentration of 210 near the headwaters of the North River estuary in Carteret Co, NC, 16 Dec (David Burney) was unusual so far upriver and was possibly due to very high tides during the fall and early winter.

Long-billed Curlew: One found in the company of Whimbrels on Edisto Island, Charleston Co, SC, 31 Jan (Steve Patterson) was the only curlew mentioned this winter.

Purple Sandpiper: Sightings included 15 on the beach of Sullivan's Island, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Dec (Nick Flanders); 27 at the same location during the last week of December (Hal Currey); 20 + on the northern jetty at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 3 Dec (Steve Compton); one on the jetty at Ft Macon, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Dec (Daniel Hueholt, et al.) and 21 Feb (Al Gamache); two on the jetty at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jan (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); and 25 on the jetty at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Feb (David Howell).

Wilson's Snipe: 110 at Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 24 Feb (Mike Turner) was a remarkable count for a Piedmont site.

Black-legged Kittiwake: First-year individuals were seen in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, foraging over the ocean with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, 8 Feb (Richard Hall); and off the end of Johnnie Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 10 Feb (Sam Cooper).

Black-headed Gull: An adult was found on Lake Norman, near Cornelius, Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Southern Lake Norman CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

Little Gull: One seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 18 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) was the only Little Gull mentioned this winter.

Iceland Gull: An adult was seen and photographed during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 41 in a field along NC-258 in Halifax Co, NC, 13 Feb (Ricky Davis) was an impressive count for an inland site. Other inland sightings included three on Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 7 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); one on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC,7 Dec (Nick Bonomo) through 9 Dec (Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski); one on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 4 Feb (Mike Turner); and one on Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 9 Feb (Turner).

Glaucous Gull: Individuals were seen on Waites Island, Horry Co, SC, 7 Jan (Taylor Piephoff); at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Jan (Ron Clark); and at the marina in Wanchese, Dare Co, NC, 26 Jan (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.).

Glaucous Gull, 26 January 2013, Dare County, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Great Skua: Two were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Pomarine Jaeger: One was seen over the ocean from the shore of Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Dec (Derb Carter).

Parasitic Jaeger: Well-reported this winter, from-shore sightings were made of one off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Dec (Derb Carter); two in the same area, 3 Dec (Carter); at least three off the Bogue Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 6 Dec (John Fussell); two off Figure Eight Island during the Holly Shelter & Lea-Hutaff Islands CBC, 16 Dec (Carter); one off Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill) and again 19 Jan (Ron Clark, et al.); one off of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, during the Sea Islands CBC, 3 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given); one off of Carolina Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Sam Cooper) and again 15 Jan (Mike Schultz); one off of Ft Macon, Carteret Co, NC, 9-10 Jan (Fussell); and one off of the south end of Pawleys Island, Georgetown Co, SC, 17 & 24 Jan (Richard & Dorothy Rosche).

Dovekie: From-shore sightings included one off of Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 13 Dec (Audrey Whitlock) and three off of Southern Shores, Dare Co, NC, 10 Feb (Jeff Lewis). 232 were seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.). The species was reported more often off the NC coast in March.

Razorbill: This species made another irruption into our waters this winter with high counts including 57 off of Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Dec (Derb Carter); ~300 off the Bogue Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 13 Dec (John Fussell) with Fussell noting that Razorbills were reliably seen on the ocean between 4 Dec and the end of Feb, and were also observed within Beaufort Inlet and in the Core Sound; 14 off of Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Dec (Greg Massey); 725 off of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Jan (Carter); 27 near the two jetties at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 19 Jan (Ron Clark, et al.) with Razorbills being seen at this location 4 Dec (Steve Compton) through the end of February (m. obs.); and 75+ off of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 10 Feb (Steve Shultz). Pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, counted 377 on 18 Feb; 989 on 16 Feb; and 2000 on 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Atlantic Puffin: Pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, found one on 16 Feb; five on 18 Feb; and 15 on 24 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.). An emaciated puffin was found on the beach in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 27 Feb, but died after being taken to a wildlife rehabilitator (*fide* John Fussell).

Barn Owl: Sightings included three on the Winyah Bay (SC) CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover); two at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Dec (Wade Fuller, Matt Gould); one at Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, NC, at dawn, 31 Dec (Mike McCloy, et al.); one at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 1 Feb

(Sandy Beasley, Carroll Richard); and one along Prater Gin Rd in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 2 Feb (Simon Harvey, J.B. Hines). Nesting pairs were noted in a church steeple in Morganton, Burke Co, NC, where one was videotaped, in January (*fide* Jane Gantt); and in a grain silo in Beaufort Co, NC, in January, where six chicks fledged in February (Alan Meijer).

Long-eared Owl: One was seen and heard at dawn along Swamp Rd, a few miles east of the Cape Fear River, Cumberland Co, NC, during the CBC, 20 Dec (Brian Bockhahn).

Short-eared Owl: Sightings included one at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Dec (Daniel Hueholt, et al.); three at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 14 Dec and again during the CBC, 30 Dec (Jeff Lewis); one in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, during the CBC, 22 Dec (Roger Smith); one over a cattle pasture in lower Richland Co, SC, 28 Dec (John Grego); and three flushed from the marsh on Bald Head Island, Brunswick Co, NC, during the CBC, 4 Jan (Ed Corey).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Individuals were detected at Mayo Mountain SP, Rockingham Co, NC, during the CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Brian Bockhahn); and in Nash Co, NC, 19 Jan (Jeff Lewis).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Coastal CBCs tallied 35 (the highest count made on any Audubon CBC this year) in Kitty Hawk, Dare Co, NC, 15 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis); 12 in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Dec (*fide* John Fussell); and 12 at Cape Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 27 Dec (*fide* Pat Moore). A first-year male banded at Murrells Inlet, Gerogetown Co, SC, in October 2012, was recaptured at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, during the winter (Susan Campbell). Campbell also reports a total of four birds, two of which she banded, in the NC Piedmont during the winter, and one in the NC mountains.

***Selasphorus* Hummingbird**: Susan Campbell received reports of 56 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds that could not be confirmed as "Rufouses," though most were probably female/immature "Rufouses," in NC this winter—14 in the coastal plain, 18 in the Piedmont, and 24 in the mountains. Five in Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Charlotte CBC, 22 Dec (*fide* Ken Kneidel); and four in Greenville Co, SC, during the North Greenville CBC, 29 Dec (J.B. Hines) were good counts. Also reported were individuals visiting feeders in Bettie, Carteret Co, NC, from fall to 15 Jan (Carolyn Mason); near Merrimon, Carteret Co, NC, throughout the period (Holly Powell); and in Wake Co, NC, 3-23 Feb (Patty Tice).

Rufous Hummingbird: Individuals were noted on multiple CBCs in both states. An adult male visited a feeder in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 7

Dec through 10 Jan (Carol Reigle). Females were banded in Catawba, Cleveland, and Iredell Counties in NC, during the winter (Dwayne Martin).

Calliope Hummingbird: An immature male visited a feeder in Monroe, Union Co, NC, from early January into spring (Cynthia Hinson, m. obs.).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird: South Carolina's second confirmed Buff-bellied Hummingbird visited a feeder in McClellanville, Charleston Co, SC, from early December to mid-February (Pam Morrison) where it was seen and photographed by multiple observers.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird, 19 December 2012, McClellanville, SC. Photo by Lori Owenby.

Say's Phoebe: Two were seen in the Carolinas this winter. The first was discovered in a field in Cherry, Washington Co, NC, during the Pettigrew SP CBC, 27 Dec (Ed Corey) where it was seen and photographed by multiple observers until last reported 7 Feb (Rich & Susan Boyd). The second was seen on private property adjacent to Congaree National Park (NP), Richland Co, SC, 16-17 Feb (Kathleen O'Grady, Alice Steinke, Ted Steinke).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Individuals were seen at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 2 Dec (Jack Fennell), briefly but a close range, though not relocated during subsequent visits; near the park office at Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, NC, during the CBC, 27 Dec (Scott Winton) through the morning of 29 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lemons); and at the east end of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 19 Jan (Scott Winton).

Western Kingbird: While one seen in Currituck Co, NC, during the Kitty Hawk CBC, 15 Dec (Linda Ward) could not be relocated, another at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, first discovered 18 Jan (David Gardner) actually stayed for a while, delighting visiting birders until it was last seen 25 Feb (Gardner).

Western Kingbird, 22 January 2013, Seabrook Island, SC. Photo by Cherrie Sneed.

White-eyed Vireo: CBCs in the coastal portion of South Carolina turned up four on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, 14 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd); four at the Savannah River Site, Jasper Co, 14 Dec (*fide* Mark Vukovich); six in Sun City-Okatie, Beaufort and Jasper Co, 14 Dec (*fide* Jane Deakin); and six in the Ace Basin, Colleton Co, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain). Coastal NC CBCs produced three in Morehead City, Carteret Co, 16 Dec (*fide* John Fussell); three at Cape Hatteras, Dare Co, 27 Dec (*fide* Pat Moore); and three at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 30 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis). Outside of CBCs, individuals were seen at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, NC, where photographed, 2 Dec (Megumi Aita); in the northern tip of Lancaster Co, SC, 20 Jan (Kevin Metcalf); at Palmetto Peartree Preserve, Tyrrell Co, NC, 23 Jan (Lewis); and at Congaree NP, Richland Co, SC, 24 Feb (John Grego).

Blue-headed Vireo: Some of the more impressive CBC tallies were 13 in Morehead City (NC), 16 Dec (*fide* John Fussell); 14 in the Congaree Swamp (SC), 16 Dec (*fide* John Grego); 17 in the Four Holes Swamp (SC), 17 Dec (*fide* Mark Musselman); 19 in the Ace Basin (SC), 20 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain); 27 at Santee NWR (SC), 22 Dec (*fide* Dennis Forsythe); and 11 at Alligator River NWR (NC), 30 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

Red-eyed Vireo: Extremely late was one photographed at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, NC, 3 Dec (Andrew Thornton). This Red-eyed Vireo may be the first ever documented in our region during the winter period.

Red-eyed Vireo, 3 December 2012, Orange County, NC. Photo by Andrew Thornton.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: One observed at Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 3 Jan (Lewis Burke, Roger Smith) may have been a rare wintering bird. One at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 25 Feb (Sam Cooper) and two there 27 Feb (Jeff Beane, Ed Corey, John Finnegan) were slightly early.

Cave Swallow: This winter's sightings involved two photographed in Georgetown Co, SC, during the Winyah Bay CBC, 14 Dec (Dennis Forsythe); one in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 1 Jan (Matt Gould); one at Greenfield Lake, New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Jan (Matt Daw, Ali Iyoob, Mike McCloy); two at the same location during the Wilmington CBC, 5 Jan (Daniel Hueholt); and two at Santee Delta WMA, Georgetown Co, SC, 25 Feb (Keith McCullough, Aaron Given).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This past fall's irruption resulted in record numbers for several CBCs—76 in Kitty Hawk, Dare Co, NC, 15 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis); 66 at Carolina Sandhills NWR, Chesterfield Co, SC, 15 Dec (*fide* Nancy Jordan); 41 in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Dec (*fide* John Fussell); and 16 in the Ace Basin, Colleton Co, SC, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain).

White-breasted Nuthatch: One seen Alligator NWR, Dare Co, NC, during the CBC, 30 Dec (Audrey Whitlock) was locally unusual and a first for that count.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Sightings outside of the coastal plain included individuals at Horseshoe Farm Park, Wake Co, NC, 14 Dec (Kyle Kittleberger, et al.); on the Clemson (SC) CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* J. Drew Lanham); at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 15 Dec (Jeff Beane) and 6 Jan (Nick

Flanders); and in the Butner Gamelands, Durham Co, NC, 29 Dec (Mike Turner). 39 in Clarendon Co, SC, during the Santee NWR CBC, 22 Dec (*fide* Dennis Forsythe) was a record number for that count.

Lapland Longspur: One was photographed on the beach at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, during the CBC, 28 Dec (Jeff Lemons, Jeff Lewis, et al.). Multiple birders reported longspurs at Dobbins Cattle Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, from mid-January into February. Two of the better counts at that location were 10+ on 2 Feb (Simon Harvey, J.B. Hines) and eight on 20 Feb (Steve Compton).

Lapland Longspur, 28 December 2012, Dare County, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Snow Bunting: Several sightings were made along the Outer Banks in Dare Co, NC—four on the beach just north of Rodanthe, 4 Jan (*fide* Jeff Lewis); one near the Old Coast Guard Station at the northern end of Pea Island NWR, 19 Jan (Ali Iyoob); eight at Jockey's Ridge SP, 8 Feb (Richard Hall); and four at that site 27 Feb (Jeff Lewis).

Snow Bunting, 27 February 2013, Dare County, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Ovenbird: Lingering/wintering individuals were noted at Congaree NP, Richland Co, SC, 2 Dec (John Grego); in a yard in Emerald Isle, Carteret Co, NC, 10 Dec (John Voigt); on the Sun City-Okatie (SC) CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Jane Deakin); in a yard on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 22 Jan through the end of the period (Jeff Lewis); and at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 5 Feb (Mark Woitkiewicz).

Black-and-white Warbler: Sightings from the northern part of our region included one near Yates Mill Pond, Wake Co, NC, 10 Dec (Phil Doerr); two in Dare Co, NC, during the Kitty Hawk CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis); one in the Elizabethan Gardens, Dare Co, NC, 17 Dec (Lewis); two at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, during the CBC, 29 Dec (Lewis); one in Greenville, Pitt Co, NC, during the CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Veronica Pantelidis); and one in Spartanburg Co, SC, during the CBC, 2 Jan (*fide* Lyle Campbell).

Tennessee Warbler: One photographed in Hillsborough, Orange Co, NC, 24 Dec (Carol Tuskey) was an amazing find, as there are only a few previous winter records.

Tennessee Warbler, 24 December 2012, Orange Co., NC. Photo by Carol Tuskey.

Nashville Warbler: One on the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, during the CBC, 29 Dec (Jeff Lewis) was the only one found in the Carolinas this winter.

American Redstart: Rare wintering individuals were found in Kitty Hawk, Dare Co, NC, during the CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis) and on James Island, Charleston Co, SC, 13 Feb (Dennis Forsythe).

Cape May Warbler: One returned to a yard in Forsyth Co, NC, where photographed, 11 Jan (John Schultz) for a third winter in a row!

Northern Parula: A female photographed in a yard in Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, 2 Dec (Megumi Aita) was quite late to depart. A female seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 5 Jan (Simon Harvey) and 13 Jan (Paul Serridge, Jane Kramer) was probably wintering in that area.

Magnolia Warbler: An adult male was found in Colleton Co, SC, during the Ace Basin CBC, 30 Dec (David Chamberlain), providing a very rare winter report of this species.

Blackpoll Warbler: An immature female at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 2 Dec (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Matt Gould) was quite late to depart.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Winter sightings included an adult male visiting a feeder in Lexington Co, SC for a third consecutive winter (Marion & Edith Clark); one in the Elizabethan Gardens, Dare Co, NC, throughout the winter (Jeff Lewis); one visiting a feeder in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, throughout the winter (Cherrie & Dan Sneed); one or two visiting a suet feeder in Straits, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Jan through the end of February (Carolyn & Don Hoss); and one in a subdivision in New Hanover Co, NC, 3-4 Feb (Greg Massey). 26 on the Hilton Head Island CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd) was easily our region's winter high count.

Prairie Warbler: Reports were few and far between this winter, with individuals noted at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, during the CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell) and in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, during the CBC, 17 Dec (Matt Gould) and again 1 Jan (Gould).

Wilson's Warbler: Four were found in the North Carolina coastal plain this winter—at River Park North, Greenville, Pitt Co, an adult male, 6-7 Dec (Chandra Biggerstaff); at Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, an adult male, 6 Jan (Jeff Lewis); along the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, 19 Jan (Norm Budnitz, et al.); and at Greenfield Lake, Wilmington, New Hanover Co, an adult male, 16 Feb (Daniel Hueholt, et al.).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Wintering individuals were noted in Carteret Co, NC, during the Morehead City CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* John Fussell); in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 1 Jan (Matt Gould); on Eagle Island, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 5 Jan (Ron Clark, Katherine Higgins, Taylor Piephoff); at Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Charleston Co, SC, 3 Feb (Lee Farese); in the Duke University "SWAMP," Durham Co, NC, 7 Feb (Scott Winton, et al.); and in Charleston Co, SC, 17 & 20 Feb (Truman Smith).

Bachman's Sparrow: Two were found next to Little Rd in a northern portion of Croatan National Forest, Craven Co, NC, during the New Bern CBC, 17 Dec (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Three were found in recently-burned wiregrass habitat in Onslow Co, NC, during the Camp Lejeune CBC, 3 Jan (Matt Gould). One was found in Francis Marion National Forest (NF), Charleston Co, SC, 23 Dec (Brad Dalton) and three were seen and heard there 13 Feb (Chet Morse).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Concentrations of this species were reliably found at two locations in eastern NC this winter—in the "sparrow field" across Shore Drive from the Cypress Point Access on the west side of Lake Phelps,

Washington Co, throughout January (m. obs.), with a high count of six made 4 Feb (Ricky Davis); and at North River Farms, Carteret Co, throughout the period, with a high count of 23 on 10 Feb (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Chandra Biggerstaff).

Vesper Sparrow: Some of the higher counts were 11 on the Southern Lake Norman (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff); 12 on the Rocky River (SC) CBC, 28 Dec (*fide* Andy Norris); three in the sparrow field on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 5 Jan (Ed Corey, et al.); three at the Wright Brothers National Memorial, Dare Co, NC, 27 Jan (Daniel Hueholt, et al.); and three on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 15 Feb (David Gardner).

Lark Sparrow: One visited a feeder in Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC, where it was photographed, 2-4 Feb (Lee Weber).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Individuals were found at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Dec, 23 Dec, and 2 Feb (John Fussell, et al.); on the Ace Basin (SC) CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain); and on the Pinewood (SC) CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Julie Hovis).

Henslow's Sparrow: Winter sightings included two on the Savannah River Site (SC) CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Mark Vukovich); two on the Holly Shelter & Lea-Hutaff Island (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Andy Wood); one at Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, during the CBC, 22 Dec (*fide* Dennis Forsythe) and again 7 Feb (Keith McCullough, et al.); one on the Ace Basin (SC) CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain); and one at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 13 Jan (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Matt Gould, et al.).

Le Conte's Sparrow: A few were found this winter—one in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, during the CBC, 17 Dec (Matt Gould) and again 1 Jan (Gould); five on the Santee WMA (SC) CBC, 22 Dec (*fide* Dennis Forsythe); up to two at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, from 23 Dec through the end of the period (John Fussell, et al.); and one on the Ace Basin (SC) CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Continuing from fall were two near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 14 Dec (Peggy Eubank, Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock). Seven on the Holly Shelter & Lea-Hutaff Island, 16 Dec (*fide* Andy Wood) was a record number for that count. Four were found in the Dare County Bombing Range near Stumpy Point during the Alligator River NWR CBC, 30 Dec (John Fussell, Matt Gould, et al.). Fussell notes that the sparrows were found in an area that was burned by wildfire during the summer of 2011. One was reliably seen in the "sparrow field" on the W side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, from late December to late January (m. obs.), with two seen there 4 Jan (Ricky Davis). Singles were found in Dare Co, NC, during

the Cape Hatteras CBC, 27 Dec (*fide* Pat Moore); in Charleston Co, SC, during the Sea Islands CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given); and on Eagle Island, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 5 Jan (Ron Clark).

Lincoln's Sparrow, 1 December 2012, Dare County, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

White-crowned Sparrow: The two largest CBC tallies were 110 on the Stone Mountain (NC) CBC, 23 Dec (*fide* Guy McGrane) and 123 on the Henderson County (NC) CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Wayne Forsythe). Counts from the NC coastal plain, where the species is less common, included ten along Shore Drive, north of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, 27 Jan (Harry LeGrand) and 15 at North River Farms, Carteret Co, 24 Feb (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

Summer Tanager: A female visited a feeder in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, throughout the period (Amy Williamson) for the fourth winter in a row. A female was photographed along Bell Point Rd during the Pamlico County (NC) CBC, 18 Dec (Christine Root). Two were reported on the Hilton Head Island (SC) CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd).

Western Tanager: A female was banded and photographed in a yard in the southern tip of Horry Co, SC, 16 Feb (Lex Glover, Julie Nole). A male visited a feeder in Clinton, Sampson Co, NC, where photographed, in mid-to-late February (Joel Rose).

Blue Grosbeak: A drab female/immature seen along Mid-Pines Rd in Wake Co, NC, 20 Jan (Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders) was a fantastic find, as this species is extremely rare in our region during the winter.

Painted Bunting: Reports of wintering buntings included three visiting feeders at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, Charleston Co, SC, throughout the winter (Cherrie Sneed) and an immature/female visiting a feeder on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 3 Dec through the end of the period (Jeff Lewis).

Dickcissel: One photographed in the Reedy Creek Lake marsh, Wake Co, NC, during the Raleigh CBC, 15 Dec (Brian Bockhahn) was a first for that count. A first-year bird visited a millet feeder in Charleston Co, SC, where it was photographed, 24 Dec through 1 Jan (Ray Swagerty, m. obs.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One found amongst a large blackbird flock in Clarendon Co, SC, 3 Jan (Lewis Burke, Roger Smith) was the only one mentioned this winter.

Rusty Blackbird: A few of the better counts were 916 on the Gastonia (NC) CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* Steve Tracy); 335 on the Columbia (SC) CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* Steve Dennis); 347 on the Durham (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Jacob Socolar); 1085 on the Chapel Hill (NC) CBC, 23 Dec (*fide* Will Cook); 236 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 31 Dec (Jane Kramer); and 175 at Pinewood Lake, Richland Co, SC, 19 Feb (John Grego).

Brewer's Blackbird: Present at Dobbin's Cattle Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, throughout much of January and February (m. obs.), a high count of 28 was made 29 Jan (Scott Davis).

Bullock's Oriole: An adult male visited a feeder in Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 8 Feb into March (Noreen George, m. obs.). The host reports this bird was present last winter as well.

Bullock's Oriole, 8 February 2013. Photo by Jeff Lemons.

Purple Finch: A few of the better counts of this irruptive finch were 46 on the Chapel Hill (NC) CBC, 23 Dec (*fide* Will Cook); 28, a record high, on the Pinewood (SC) CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Julie Hovis); 19, a record high, on Lake Wateree (SC) CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Donna Slyce); 61 in a yard in Chatham Co, NC, 24 Jan (Phil Warren); and 48 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 14 Feb (Jane Kramer, Paul Serridge).

Red Crossbill: A flock of up to 23 crossbills was seen at Devil's Fork SP in Oconee Co, SC, throughout January (m. obs.) after a female was photographed there 31 Dec (Hilda Flamholtz) and 22 were seen at the nearby Cliffs at Keowee Falls golf course during the Keowee CBC, 5 Jan (Jeff Click, Brad Dalton). Six, five females and one male, visited a birdbath in Bahama, Durham Co, NC, 5 Jan (Tom Krakauer). Pairs in Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Southern Lake Norman CBC, 16 Dec (Alan Kneidel, Jeff Lemons) and in Cumberland Co, NC, during the CBC, 20 Dec (*fide* Brian Bockhahn) were new to both counts. Individuals were heard in flight near Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 9 Dec (Nick Flanders); east of Huntersville, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 19 Jan (Kevin Metcalf); and near Ringwood, Halifax Co, NC, 20 Jan (J. Merrill Lynch).

White-winged Crossbill: A flock of up to 12 birds was seen and heard near Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, during the Durham CBC, 16 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger).

Common Redpoll: Individuals were seen at Congaree NP, Richland Co, SC, during the Congaree Swamp CBC, 16 Dec (Molly Bonnell, Donna Slyce); visiting a feeder in Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 22 Dec (Kate Sutherland); at Sandy Creek Park in Durham Co, NC, 19 Jan (Andrew Thornton); at the feeder at the Pea Island NWR visitor center, Dare Co, NC, in late January (Derb Carter); at a thistle feeder in Lillington, Harnett Co, NC, where photographed, 13-16 Feb (Paul Hart); and in Madison Co, NC, in mid-to-late February (Michael Logue).

Pine Siskin: Record numbers on three SC CBCs—50 on Savannah River Site, 14 Dec (*fide* Mark Vukovich); 155 on Congaree Swamp, 16 Dec (*fide* John Grego); and 76 on Pinewood, 4 Jan (*fide* Julie Hovis)—were indicative of the species' southward movement this year. Counts of 560 on the Durham (NC) CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Jacob Socolar) and 558 on the Chapel Hill (NC) CBC, 23 Dec (*fide* Will Cook) were impressive.

Evening Grosbeak: Pairs visited feeders in Chatham Co, NC, 24-27 Dec (Andy Upshaw) and in Harbinger, Currituck Co, NC, where photographed, 4-5 Jan (Lyndi Harris). At least 5 visited a feeder on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 2 Jan (Skip Morgan). CBCs reporting individual grosbeaks were Rockingham County (NC), 14 Dec (*fide* Brian Bockhahn); Cumberland County (NC), 20 Dec (*fide* Bockhahn); and Falls Lake (NC), 4 Jan (*fide* Bockhahn).

Evening Grosbeak, 4 January 2013, Currituck County, NC. Photo by Lyndi Harris.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Make checks payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Send checks or correspondence regarding membership or change of address to the Headquarters Secretary, or use http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/about.html. Dues include $6 for a subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and $7 for a subscription to *The Chat*.

ANNUAL DUES

Individual or non-profit	$25.00
Family or business	$30.00
Patron	$50.00
Student	$15.00
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive $125 installments)	$500.00
Associate Life Membership (in same household as life member)	$100.00

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The Chat

Quarterly Bulletin of Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612

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